

Kota Kinabalu

Sabah's Capital City



The Moth Orchid (*Phalaenopsis
amabilis*): City Flower of Kota Kinabalu.

Kota Kinabalu, or 'KK'

as it is popularly known, is a pleasant Borneo surprise, set between lush tropical hills and the South China Sea. It is the state capital of Sabah and a resort-city of exciting contrasts—vibrant, serene and hassle-free, with modern infrastructure and many attractions. Strategically situated less than three hours by air from East Asian capitals, KK has direct flights to/from major cities—Kuala Lumpur, Bandar Seri Begawan, Singapore, Manila, Cebu, Hong Kong, Taipei, Kaoshiung, Seoul, Tokyo and Sydney. KK was granted city status on 2 February 2000. It is the Eastern hub and Gateway to Malaysia.

Brief History

KK traces its beginnings to 1881, as a tiny British settlement on Pulau Gaya, the biggest of five islands directly across the bay from present-day KK City. In 1897, rebel Mat Salleh and his men fought and burnt the island settlement. The British re-located to the mainland at Kampong Gantisan, a small fishing village. In 1899, the British named the new settlement 'Jesselton' after Sir Charles Jessel, the Vice-Chairman of the British North Borneo Chartered Company.



Jesselton was also known as Api-Api, which literally means, 'fire-fire'. It was said that it derived this name from the frequent fires that occurred during festive seasons caused by flying sparks from firecrackers burning the thatched roofs and wooden structures of the shophouses. Some believe the name Api-Api may have derived from the *Avicennia* trees which grew abundantly along the coasts and were used for firewood (*kayu api*).

To liberate North Borneo from Japanese occupation during World War II, Allied Forces bombed and completely destroyed Jesselton, leaving only three colonial buildings standing. These were the elegant Sabah Tourism Building at 51 Jalan Gaya, the Atkinson Clock Tower and the former Lands & Survey Building. Unfortunately, the latter was burnt down in a New Year's Eve fire in 1992. The Sikh Temple, located away from the town centre, was also spared from the bombing. The high cost of re-building forced the Chartered Company to relinquish their land rights over North Borneo to the British Government. North Borneo became a British Crown Colony on 15 July 1946. At the same time, Jesselton was selected as the new capital of North Borneo, to replace Sandakan, which was also destroyed during the War.





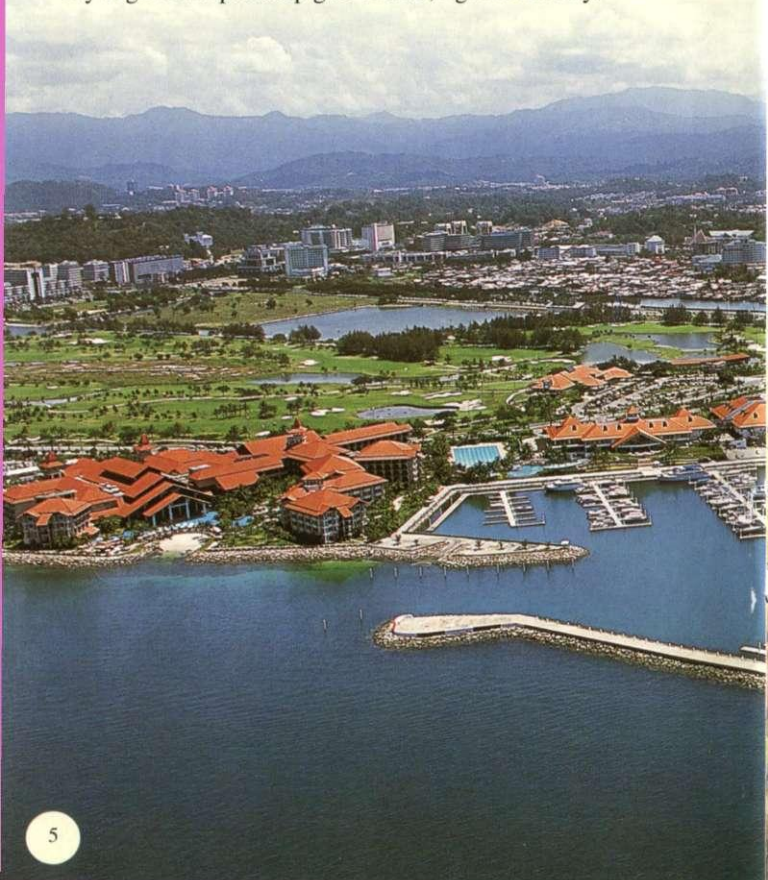


On 10 September 1951, His Excellency Major-General Sir Ralph Hone, Governor of North Borneo, laid a stone to commemorate the building of the first block of permanent two-storey shophouses, under the new Jesselton town plan. This stone is still to be found on the corner shop, Eng Leong, which in its heyday was reputed to be a fashionable shop.

Jesselton was renamed Kota Kinabalu on 30 September 1968, for the majestic Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, at 4,095.2 m (13,435 ft).

Post-war reconstruction of the capital saw major changes to its skyline, coastline and land area. Most of KK is built on reclaimed land.

Notable landmarks (besides the sprawling city) which arriving visitors see from the air are the emerald-green islands of Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park and the beautiful world-class seaside resorts of Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and the 150-ha Sutera Harbour Resort & Spa with its 27-hole day-night championship golf course, right in the city.

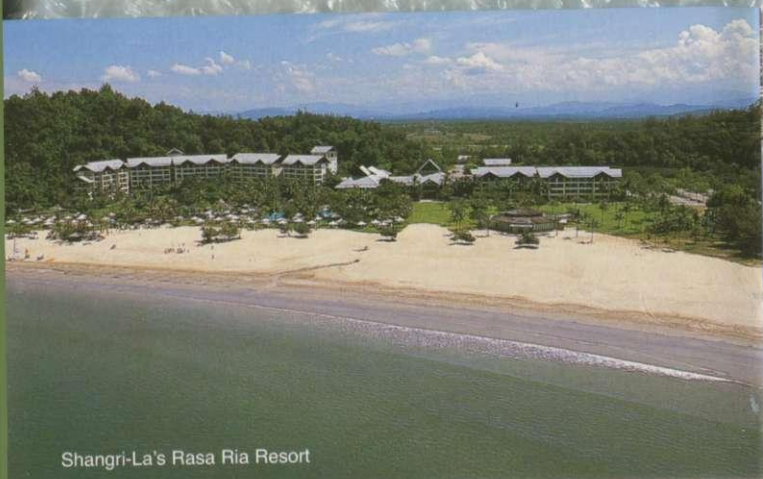




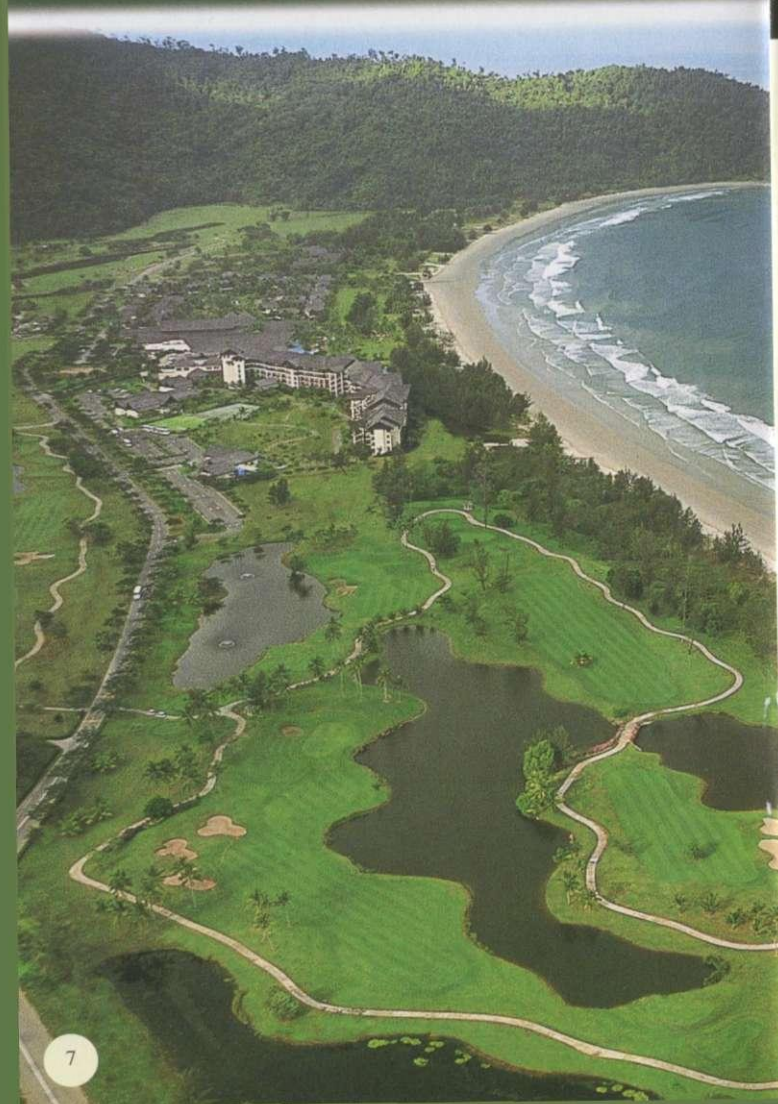
Gayana Resort



Sutera Harbour Resort & Spa with Kota Kinabalu City stretching beyond.

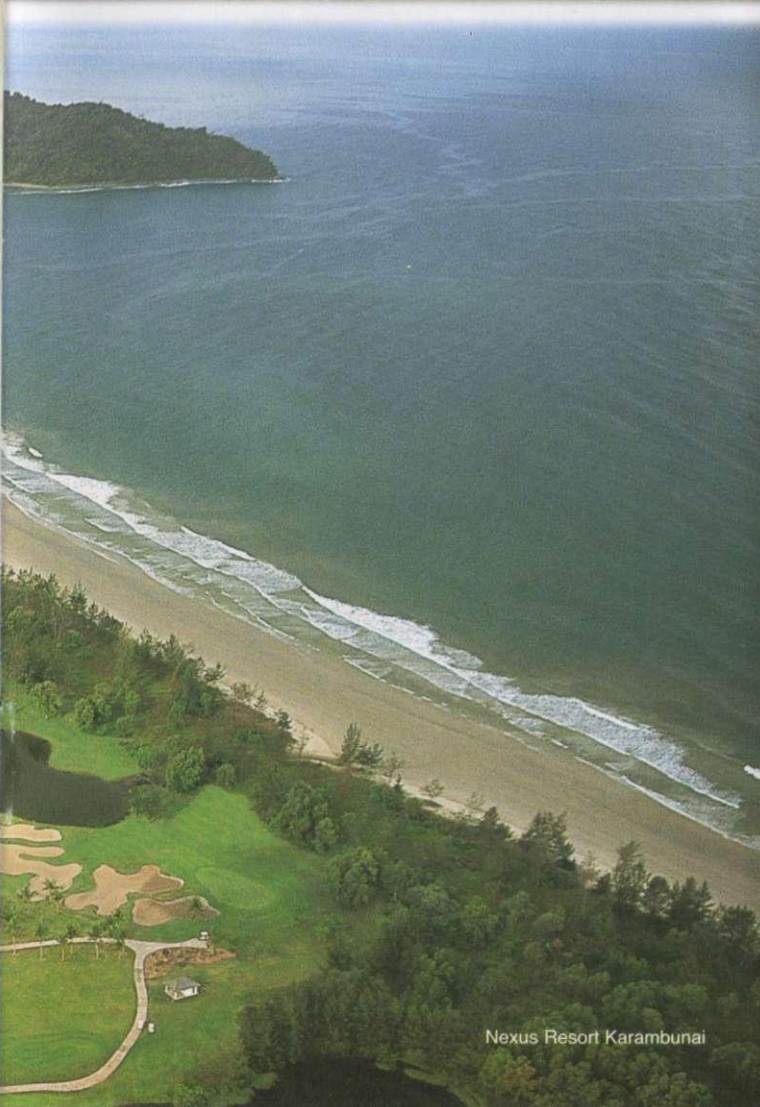


Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort

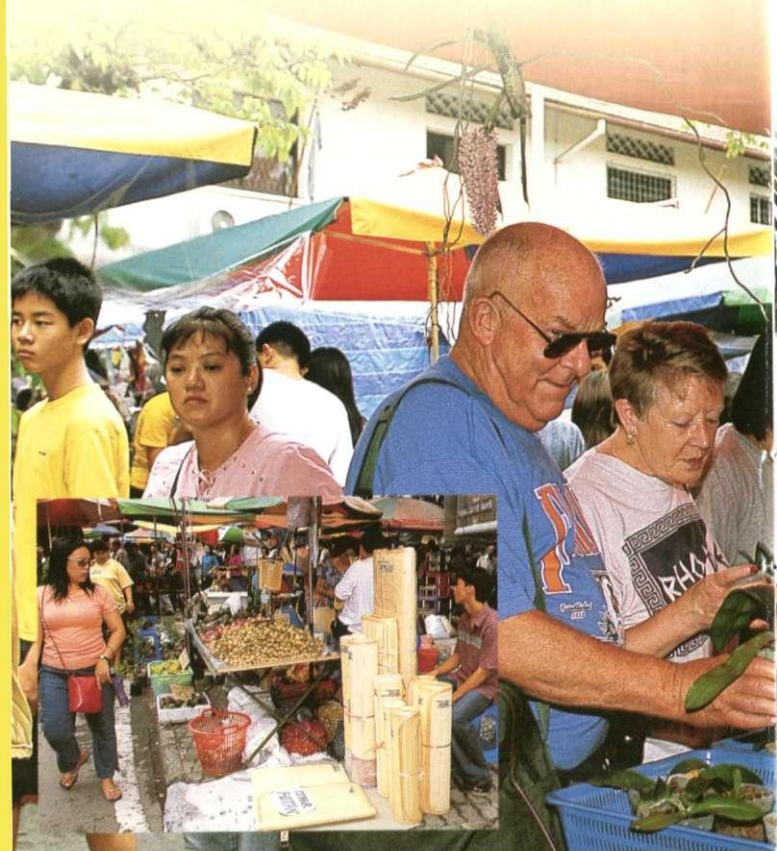




Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort



Nexus Resort Karambunai



Gaya Street

Originally known as Bond Street, this is the main street of KK. Fully rebuilt in the 1950s and 1960s, the shophouses were used in the traditional way, with shops on the ground floor and residential units on the upper floors. Today, Gaya Street has the largest number of legal offices, banks and financial institutions of any street in Sabah. It also has many eateries open during the day and night.

The Gaya Street Fair

Every Sunday morning, Gaya Street is closed to traffic for the Gaya Street Fair. For a small fee, traders set up stalls for the morning to sell almost anything—fruits and vegetables, fish, cut flowers & plants, puppies, rabbits, books, clothes, toys, souvenirs & handicrafts, antiques, home-made local cakes & *kueh-mueh*, food, the famous Tenom coffee, and traditional medicine. There are also mobile health clinics offering minor check-ups, and even politicians who set up desks to meet their constituents. It's amazing what you may find at the Gaya Street Fair.





Sabah Tourism Building

Situated at 51 Jalan Gaya, the building was constructed in 1916 to house the Printing Office and later the Treasury, Audit Office, Town Board, the District Office and the Attorney General's Office. It was one of only three buildings still standing after Allied bombings at the end of World War II. From the 1950s until September 1986 the Post Office occupied the building. Fully restored, it was gazetted as a heritage building and officially became the Sabah Tourism Building in January 1991 and now serves as a Tourist Information Centre.



Jesselton Hotel

Located right on Gaya Street is the Jesselton Hotel. Built in 1954, it has the distinction of being KK's oldest hotel. Notable early dignitaries who stayed at the hotel included Lady Edwina, wife of Lord Louis Mountbatten. In recent years, Jesselton Hotel has been recognised as one of Malaysia's leading boutique hotels.



Australia Place

While in downtown KK, do walk to Australia Place, where the Australian soldiers camped when they landed in Jesselton in 1945. This is now a quiet street of print shops, the downtown Police Station, a popular back-packers hostel and the Dewan Merdeka. Although times and landscapes have changed, old memories linger and the site continues to be known as Australia Place to some.

Atkinson Clock Tower



Dewan Merdeka

The Jesselton Community Centre, renamed Dewan Merdeka (Independence Building), was completed in March 1958. It was the venue for many important and historical events, including the historic signing of the Cobbold Commission of Inquiry that collected the views of the people of Sabah and Sarawak on the proposal for the formation of the Federation of Malaysia. In the Inquiry, Sabah and Sarawak agreed to the formation of Malaysia together with the Federated States of Malaya and Singapore. This led to the Proclamation of the Federation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

Atkinson Clock Tower

Building a British colonial empire in faraway Borneo had its share of difficulties and challenges. One of these was tropical diseases. The first District Officer of Jesselton, Francis George Atkinson, died of malaria at the young age of 28. His mother, Mary Edith Atkinson of England, built the Atkinson Clock Tower on Bukit Brace (Brace Hill) in 1905, in memory of her son. While the original *mirabau* wood used to build the Clock Tower has been replaced over the years, the building's overall structure has been retained. As late as 1956, the lights of the Clock Tower were used as a navigation aid by local ships coming into port. However, the Tower can no longer be seen from the sea due to the tall buildings. The Clock Tower was gazetted as a heritage building in 1983.



Padang Merdeka

It was at Padang Merdeka on 16 September 1963 that North Borneo was proclaimed independent, became known as Sabah and together with the Federated States of Malaya, Singapore, and Sarawak formed Malaysia. To this day, national and state occasions are celebrated here with parades and colourful festivities.

Wisma Tun Mustapha (formerly known as Sabah Foundation Building)

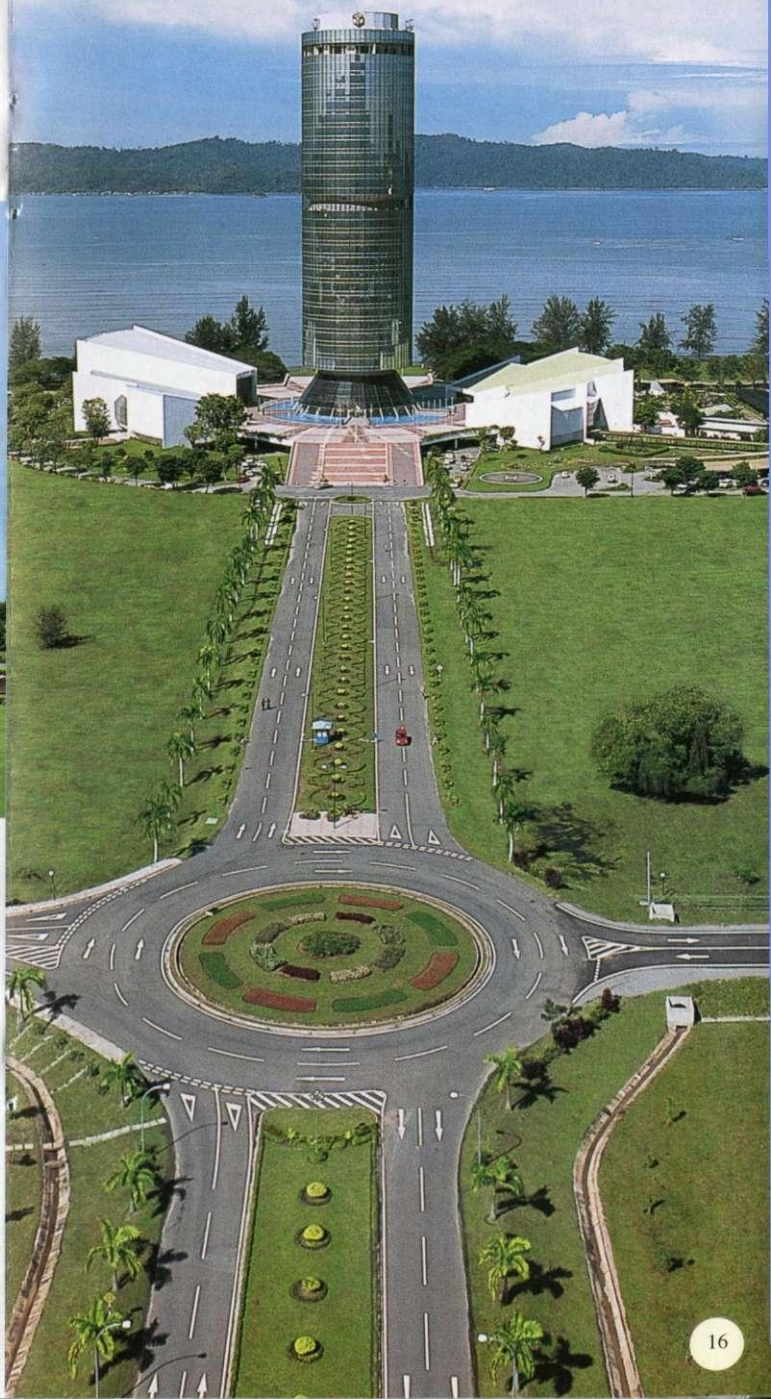
Built in 1977, the sparkling 30-storey tower block is one of the few buildings in the world that utilise a single column structure, with 96 high-tensile steel rods supporting its steel radial brackets. It has an auditorium, two mini-theatres, exhibition foyer, a gymnasium, a kindergarden and the Centre for Borneo Studies—a Research Library.

Sabah Museum

Located on the grounds of the former British Colonial Governor's Residence and where the early Sabah State Assembly sessions were convened. Built in 1985, the Sabah Museum Complex consists of several buildings.

The Main Building resembles a Rungus longhouse. Its slanting roof-beams, horizontally extended at the lower ends, resemble the outstretched arms of a *sumazau* dancer. It houses the permanent Exhibition Galleries, including the Ethnography Gallery with its collections of traditional ethnic costumes, musical instruments and various artefacts of the many ethnic communities of Sabah. The Brass Collections are acquired heirlooms, as are the jars and ceramics that include a rare *tabu dita* jar, a huge 18th-century Qing Dynasty blue-and-white porcelain jar. In the Pre-History Gallery is a replica of a typical limestone cave, famous for the edible bird's nests, believed to have curative and anti-ageing properties.





Science & Education Centre—designed with a roof resembling the *seraung* or *sirung* (woven bamboo native hat), the Science & Education Centre has a permanent Shell Exhibit that takes visitors on an educational journey of the important off-shore oil and gas industry in Sabah that contributes greatly to the national economy.

The Heritage Village—a typical village environment planted with fruit trees and herbal gardens of medicinal plants. Visitors may cross a swinging hanging bridge to see and explore the traditional houses of some of Sabah's ethnic communities but without prying into their privacy. There are the longhouses of past head-hunting Murut of the Interior and the Rungus of northern Borneo; detached bamboo houses of the Tambunan Kadazandusun, the Dusun Lotud of Tuaran and those of the Bajau, Illalun and Brunei Malays. There is also a Hakka-Chinese farm house.

Sabah Art Gallery—Also located in the same *seraung*-shaped building, the Art Gallery exhibits the work of Sabah's talented artists. Special exhibits and sales are held year-round at the Gallery or in selected venues around KK to promote works of art. Look out for these special announcements.

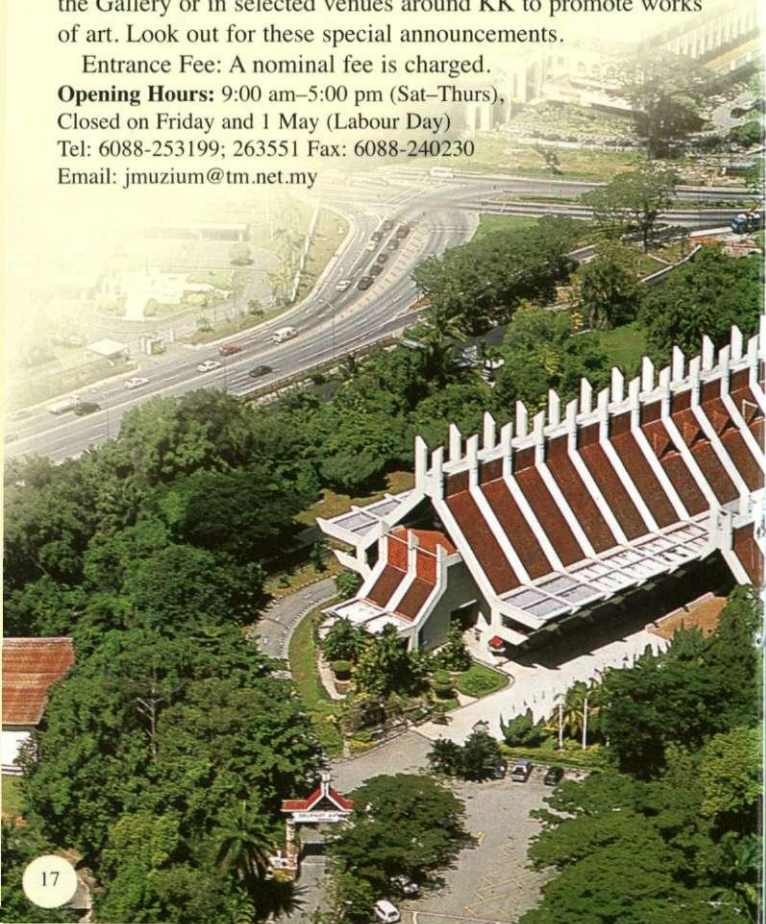
Entrance Fee: A nominal fee is charged.

Opening Hours: 9:00 am–5:00 pm (Sat–Thurs),

Closed on Friday and 1 May (Labour Day)

Tel: 6088-253199; 263551 Fax: 6088-240230

Email: jmuzium@tm.net.my





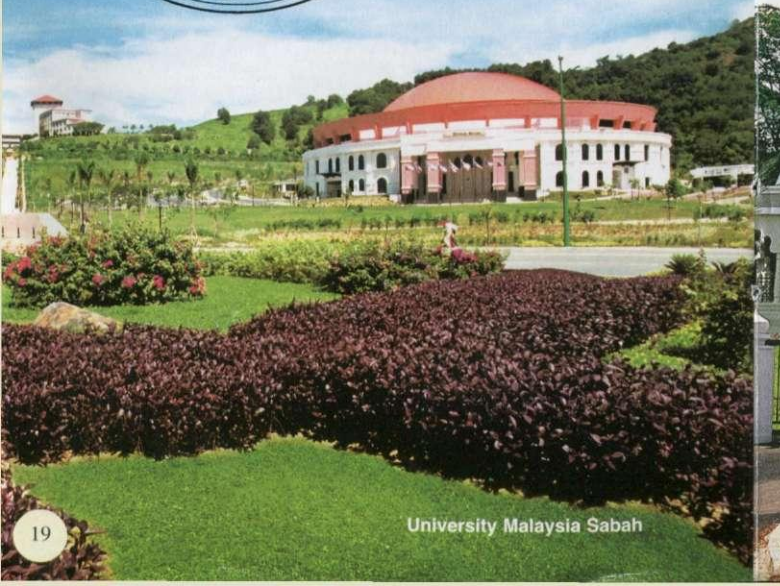
The Sabah Museum

University Malaysia Sabah

(UMS)

University Malaysia Sabah campus is set amid rolling hills along a seafront a little away from the hustle and bustle of the KK city. The 15 minutes journey from the City to the University will take you pass the stunning Likas Bay. This is the ninth university in Malaysia, set up in 1994, and it has been dubbed as the most beautiful University in South East Asia. The main campus sits on a 999 acre piece of land along the Sepangar Bay.

This fully integrated campus is also able to host Meetings, Conventions and Exhibitions as well as having a Big Hall with a 5,000 seat capacity.



Museum of Islamic Civilisation

Officially opened to the public on 5 April 2002, it is located off Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman on a 2-ha site. The building is of Islamic architecture. Its five domes, including the main dome at the centre of its roof, depict the five Islamic commandments or pillars.

The Museum has six Galleries: An Introduction to Islamic Civilisation, Islam in Nusantara, Islam in Malaysia, Islam in Sabah, the Prophet Muhammad Gallery—exhibiting the history of Muhammad's struggle to spread the Islamic faith. Amongst the items on display are replicas of Prophet Muhammad's sword, Zulfaqar and verses of the Quran in the form of, embroidered calligraphy. At the Islamic Commandment Gallery, the exhibits include wooden *rehal* from Kashmir and brass *gantang*.

Opening Hours:

9:00 am–5:00 pm (Sat–Thurs),

Closed on Friday and 1 May (Labour Day)

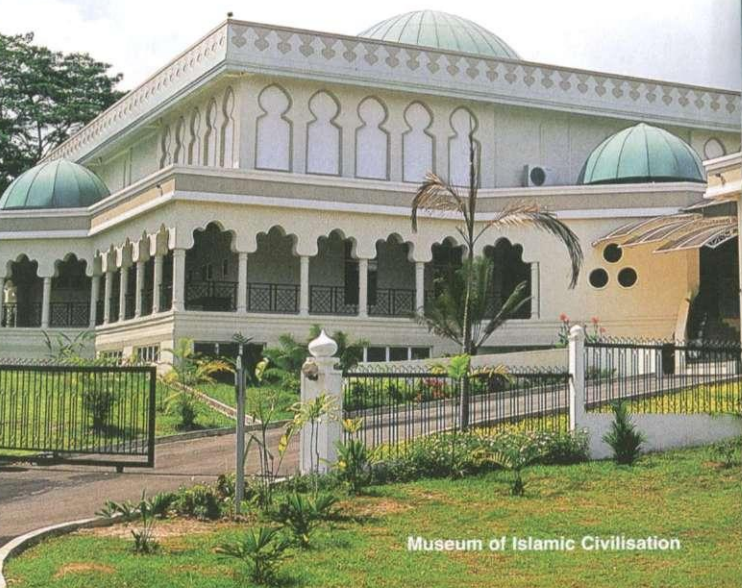
For more information:

Email: jmuzium@tm.net.my

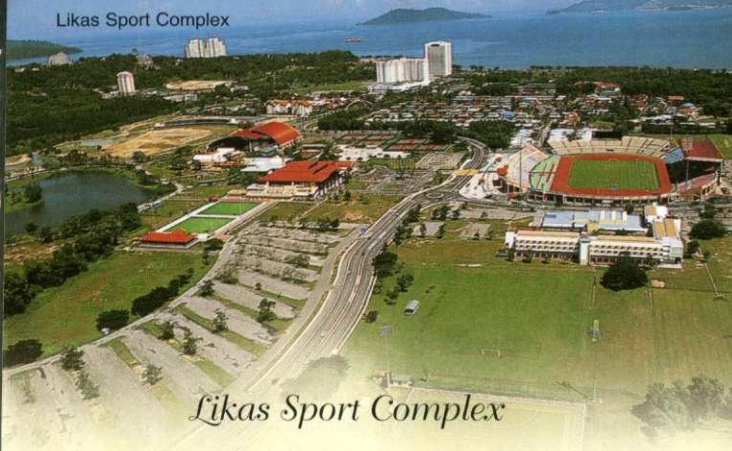
Website: www.mzm.sabah.gov.my/mtis

Tel: 6088-538234; 538225; 538227; 538228

Fax: 6088-240230



Museum of Islamic Civilisation

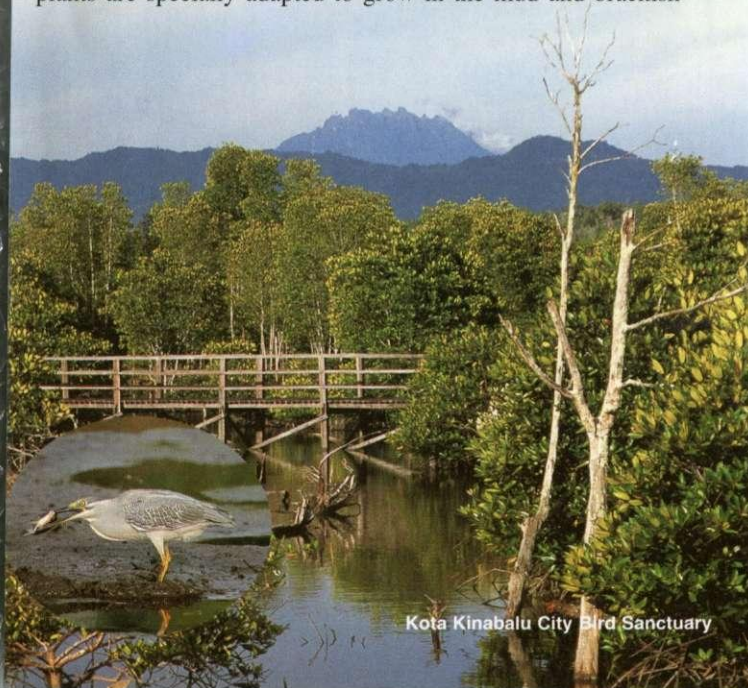


Likas Sport Complex

Sabah's main sporting venue, the modern multi-million dollar Likas Sports Complex is equipped with complete facilities and has hosted major national and international sporting events.

Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary

The KKCBS is located just 2 km from the city centre on about 24 hectares (60 acres) of mangrove wetlands, near the Likas Sports Complex and residential bungalows. The Sanctuary is an environmental nature education centre, providing urban recreation and nature appreciation. Mangrove plants are specially adapted to grow in the mud and brackish



Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary

water to give home to many birds, crabs, prawns and fish. The Sanctuary is a vital refuge and feeding ground for many species of resident migratory birds. About 80 species have been identified. Community volunteers from all walks of life help to man the Sanctuary; supported by WWF Malaysia, Sabah Wildlife Department and corporate donors. Bird watching is best at dawn or at dusk when they return to roost for the night.

Opening hours:

8 am–6 pm (Tues–Sun), Closed on Monday

Tel: 6088-247955; 246955 Fax: 6088-241531

Email: Likaswetlands@hotmail.com

Tunku Abdul Rahman Park (TAR)

The marine park is a cluster of five islands—Pulau Gaya, Pulau Sapi, Pulau Manukan, Pulau Mamutik and Pulau Sulug about 20 minutes speed-boat ride from the city. All are popular destinations to relax and picnic, snorkel, and scuba dive. Sea-walking on the seabed is available off Sabah Parks' Base Camp Jetty on Pulau Gaya. The largest of the islands, at 140 ha, Pulau Gaya is partly private-owned and there is a lovely resort of chalets-above-the-sea, the Gayana Resort, which also undertakes a Reef Project. Aquarium Exhibits explain their programme—of particular interest are the giant clams. Manukan is the second largest island; it has accommodation and restaurant facilities.

Boats to the Islands: Visitors to the islands are advised to utilise **ONLY** licensed boats from the Kota Kinabalu Jetty Terminal, located at the Sabah Port, next to the Royal Customs Office; and licensed operators at the Sutera Harbour Marina and the Marina at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort.



State Legislative Assembly Building

The Legislative Assembly is the highest law-making institution. It also symbolizes governmental democracy in line with the aspirations of our Parliamentary system of government. Situated atop an undulating 60-ha hill, the State Legislative Assembly Building was built in 1995 at a cost of RM150 million. Its Entrance Lobby commands a panoramic view of Likas Bay and the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park.



Places of Worship

Malaysia allows freedom of worship. Sabah has numerous places of worship: mosques and *suraus*, churches, cathedrals (Catholic and Anglican) and temples (Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh)—all are open to the public. However, visitors are kindly reminded to strictly observe the proper religious etiquette when visiting these places of worship. Visitors wishing to view mosques are advised to visit before or after prayers so as not to distract those in prayers, and to abide by the dress code.

Sabah State Mosque, Sembulan

Officially opened on 28 June 1977 by the Yang-di-Pertuan Agong (King), the State Mosque is elegantly influenced by both contemporary and ancient Islamic architecture. This beautiful



KK City Mosque

State landmark has a single minaret that stands about 65.5 metres (215 feet) alongside a massive golden dome encircled by 16 smaller domes. It can accommodate 5,000 devotees. The *azan* (call to prayer) from the State Mosque can be distinctly heard around Kota Kinabalu.

KK City Mosque

Situated at Likas Bay near the sea this mosque has similar features to the Nabawi Mosque in Medina. It is the biggest mosque in KK and is perhaps one of the most beautiful in Malaysia—an amazing sight on a full moon night. Built in 1997 on a 1-ha site, the prayer hall can accommodate 9,000–12,000 people.

All Saints Cathedral

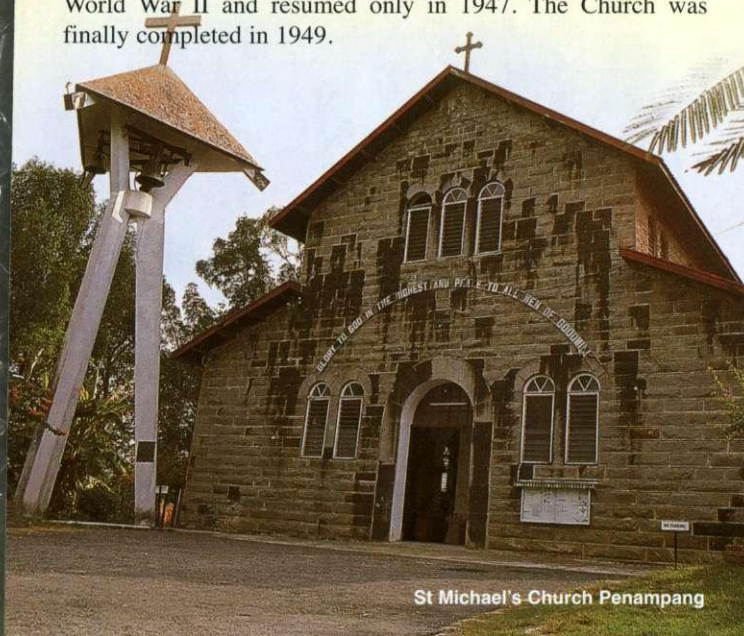
All Saints Cathedral in Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, which was designed by W.H. Kwan and completed in 1959, can seat about 800 worshippers.

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Completed in 1982, the Sacred Heart Cathedral is situated on the same site as the original church founded by the Mill Hill Brothers who also pioneered the Catholic mission schools in the state capital.

St Michael's Church Penampang

Fr. August Wachter initiated the building of St Michael's Church Penampang and the foundation stone was laid on 29th September 1936, which coincided with the Feast of St. Michael's. It took a long time to build because the solid rocks were taken from Dambai, about 2 km. from the church site. Rocks were dynamited, extracted, cut and shaped into sizes of one foot thick and three-feet in length. Buffaloes were used to transport the solid blocks of rocks. Construction stopped during World War II and resumed only in 1947. The Church was finally completed in 1949.



St Michael's Church Penampang

Puh Toh Tze Temple

Built in 1980, this Buddhist temple, situated off Tuaran Road, has traditional Chinese roofing and structure. Ten large statues of deities, including Kwan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy stand at the main entrance of the temple. Prayers are held twice daily.

Peak Nam Tong Temple

Peak Nam Tong Temple off Penampang Road offers visitors the opportunity to view traditional Chinese architecture and rituals. Besides its lion dance troupe, which performs every Chinese New Year and on other special occasions, the temple also has a kindergarten. Believers attribute their success from the advice obtained from the Temple.

Sikh Temple

Built in 1924, the Gurdawara off Jalan Mat Salleh is one of five Sikh temples in Sabah. The temple is one of the few



Puh Toh Tze Temple

buildings in the state capital which survived World War II. Every year, Sikhs in Kota Kinabalu celebrate Visakhi (Sikh New Year) and Diwali (Festival of Light) at the Gurdawara.

Petagas War Memorial

The Petagas War Memorial is a poignant reminder of all those who lost their lives defending Sabah against the Japanese Occupation during World War II, particularly those of the ill-

Petagas War Memorial





fated Kinabalu Guerrillas. Led by Albert Kwok, the Kinabalu Guerrillas staged a surprise attack on the invaders on the eve of 10 October (Double Tenth) 1943 in Tuaran and Menggatal and marched onto Jesselton before they were finally defeated.

Located across the highway from the KK International Airport, the Memorial Park is sited on the very spot where 176 of the Guerrillas were massacred on 21 January 1944. The remaining 131 were sent to labour camps in Labuan. It is believed that only nine survived. In 1948, the remains of the Kinabalu Guerrillas who perished in Labuan were brought back in jars and buried next to their heroic comrades. Their return remained a well-kept secret until 1979 when the jars were discovered during the reconstruction of the memorial.

British North Borneo Memorial

In downtown KK, directly across the road from the High Court amidst the flame-of-the-forest trees in the City Park, is the British North Borneo Memorial, which commemorates soldiers of World War I. Originally sited in the centre of Gaya Street, it was unveiled on 8 May 1923. A total of 79 men in the service of the British North Borneo.

Chartered Company answered the call to take up arms to defend the British Empire during World War I (1914–1918). The names of the 13 who lost their lives are inscribed on brass plates on the obelisk.



Double Six Monument

On 6 June 1976 a light aircraft carrying Tun Mohd Fuad Stephens, Sabah's fifth Chief Minister, three Ministers, an Assistant Minister and two senior government servants crashed in the shallow waters off Sembulan. The tragedy wiped out much of the top ranks of the newly appointed government. Tun Mohd Fuad Stephens had the distinction of being elected Chief Minister of Sabah twice, in 1963 and 1976. The Double Six Monument was unveiled on 6 June 1982 on the exact spot of the crash. Once surrounded by water, the monument now stands on reclaimed land amidst new housing developments.

Heroes Monument

Located at km 2.5 Penampang Road, the Heroes Monument is an impressive structure set amidst the landscaped gardens of Sabah's first Public Park project. The annual Heroes Day ceremony is held here to honour Malaysians, past and present, for their bravery and noble work of protecting this nation. The 6-ha park was designed to incorporate recreational and educational facilities, to allow visitors to enjoy the outdoors tranquillity, and to have moments of reflection for those who gave up their lives in order for the people and nation to enjoy peace and to be safe.

Tun Mustapha Memorial

One of Sabah's most illustrious political figures, Tun Datu Haji Mustapha bin Datu Harun was born on 31 July 1918 at Kg Limau Limauan, Kudat. At the age of 10, he worked as a houseboy for the



Resident of Kudat, E.W. Morell. Thirty-five years later, he became Sabah's first Head of State. Charismatic leader, World War II freedom fighter and the man who led Sabah into the union of Malaysia, thus securing its independence from the British, Tun Mustapha's contribution to Sabah's political maturity is immeasurable. He died on 3 January 1995 and was buried in Putatan. The Tun Mustapha Memorial, opened in September 1999, is located on a hill that was used as a base by rebel Mat Salleh prior to his attack on the British Settlement at Gaya Island in July 1897.

SMK SANZAC

In 1969, ex-servicemen of ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) who fought in Sabah during World War II applied for a 2-ha piece of land to erect a monument and school to commemorate the close bond of friendship between the people of Sabah and ANZAC during the war. The army barracks on the site were converted to classrooms, and more classrooms were built in 1971. On 30 May 1974, SMK SANZAC (Sabah, Australia and New Zealand Corps) was officially opened. The Monument, which is located in front of the school, is visited annually on 25 April, ANZAC Day, to honour those who sacrificed their lives to liberate North Borneo and its people. The bond of friendship continues through these young people.



North Borneo Railway

The 1880s brought great change to Borneo as the British North Borneo Company sold acres and acres of interior lands to planters for the cultivation of crops. Many found their plots of land in the middle of tropical jungles with no possible form of communication or transportation. Earlier plantations transported their harvests on foot or on animals. A railway into the heart of Borneo became necessary. In 1896, the railway from the interior reached Weston, the new port on Brunei Bay. However, the waters at Weston were found to be too shallow for a wharf and so it was decided to extend the line northwards to Jesselton. The locomotives used were steam-powered.

Today one can journey back into the colonial days of British North Borneo on board the North Borneo Railway's mid-20th century British 'Vulcan' steam engine train. Built and operated to the highest international service standards, the train, which can take 180 passengers, consists of five refurbished colonial style carriages, an observation deck and bar carriage with washroom facilities in each carriage.

For more information on Schedule/Fares/Charter, contact:

North Borneo Railway

Tel/Fax: 6088-263933 Email: nbr@po.jaring.my

Website: www.northborneorailway.com.my





Orchid De Villa

Established in 1995, this 5-ha commercial orchid farm is about 30 minutes' drive north of KK, in the village of Kampung Kawakaan, Inanam. The hybrids include *Dendrobium*, *Mokara*, *Aranda* and *Oncidium* species. The farm supplies cut flowers to local florists.

Orchid De Villa also has more than 200 species of wild exotic, rare species of Borneo orchids collected mostly from Tenom, Lahad Datu, Ranau, Tawau, Keningau and Kota Belud. Entrance Fee: Nominal

Opening hours:

8 am–5 pm (Tues–Sun), Closed on Monday

For information, contact:

Orchid De Villa

Off Jalan Kiansom Km 6, Kampung Kawakaan/Kitobu Inanam

P.O. Box No 21724, 88775 Luyang, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Tel: 6088-434997; 380611; 380612

Fax: 6088-435596



KK Suburbs & Townships

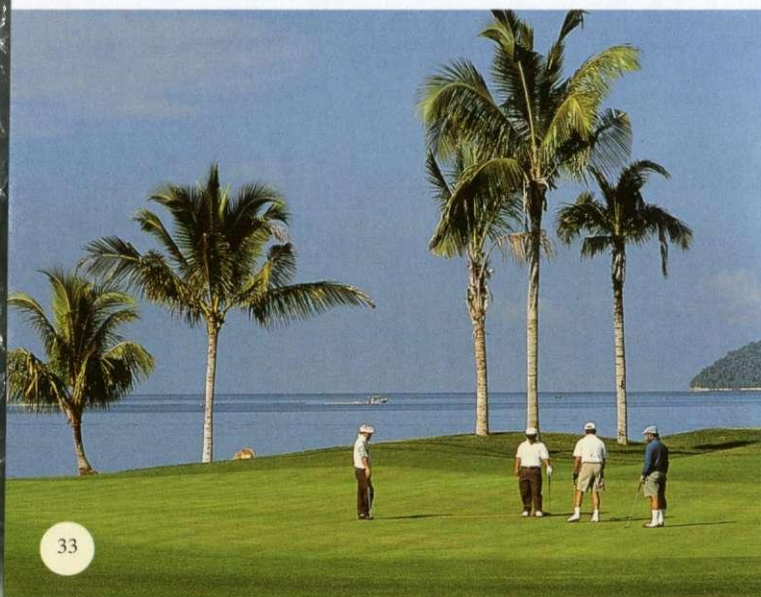
There are several distinct suburbs and 'townships' within the Greater KK City area. These include Sembulan, Lintas, Luyang, Damai, Foh Sang, and northward to Likas, Inanam, Menggatal and Telipok including villages and farmlands that are fast becoming surrounded by suburban residential and light industrial areas. There are many popular restaurants and entertainment spots in the suburbs.

Golfing

Golfing is very popular. There are many excellent golf courses and Signature Championship courses, including the Jack Nicklaus designed Borneo Golf & Country Club; Sutera Harbour Golf Club by Graham Marsh that offers day and night golfing; Karambunai Resort Golf Course designed by Ronald Fream; and Dalit Bay Golf by E&G Parslow. Robert Muir Graves designed two courses: Sabah Golf & Country Club and Mount Kinabalu Golf course. The latter is set at 6,000 feet above sea level and offers a cool challenge—floating clouds are fairway hazards! To the avid golfer, whether amateur or professional, a challenging game is guaranteed.

Entertainment

KK boasts many entertainment spots with local or imported entertainers. You can choose to dance the night away to live





bands, a deejay's music or sing your heart out at the karaoke. There's plenty to do, see and enjoy. KK by night is lively and great fun.

Restaurants & Dining

KK offers fine restaurants that serve popular Malaysian dishes as well as international cuisines, including Western, Japanese, Korean, Italian and Thai. Sabah is the best place in Malaysia for good seafood. For local everyday favourites, there are rice and noodle dishes—soto, Tuaran mee, chicken/duck rice, *laksa*, *ngui'chap*, *rojak-mee*, *soup tulang*, or *nasi lemak*.



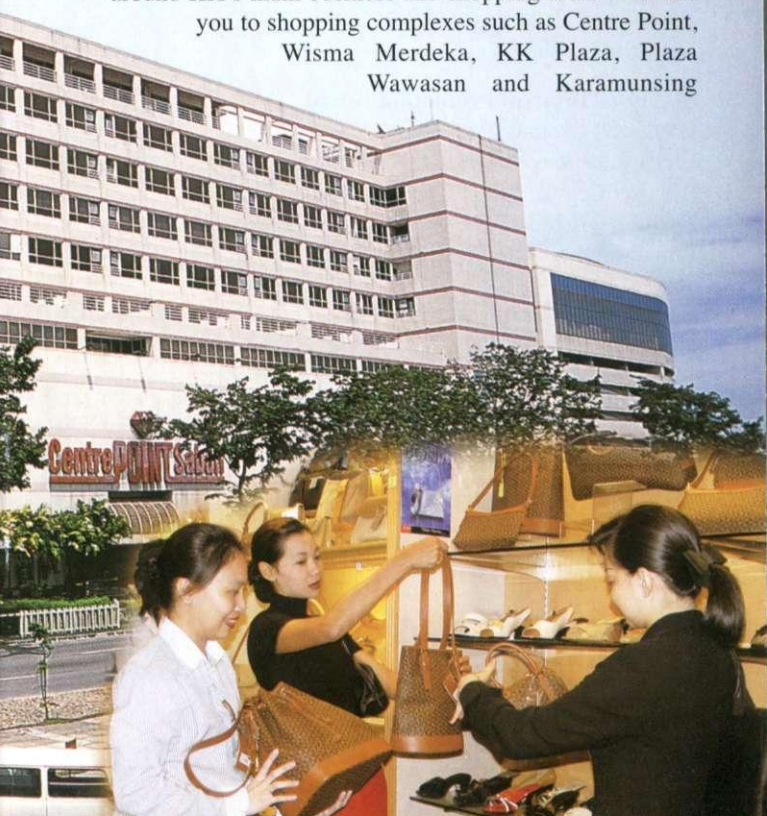


Accommodation

As the international gateway to Malaysian Borneo, Kota Kinabalu offers a wide variety of accommodation, ranging from world-class 5-star resorts and hotels to B&Bs, backpacker hostels and seaside chalets. Top international luxury resorts are located within 10–30 minutes' drive of the city. These properties, with stunning views of the South China Sea, are complete with the latest modern amenities and facilities including golf courses and marinas. Shuttle bus services take in-house guests to the city for shopping. Staying in the city gives you easy access to a wide variety of restaurants, and also inexpensive eateries and entertainment spots.

Getting around and shopping

Getting around in KK is easy; taxis, buses and cars-for-hire are easily available. Malay is the national language and Sabah has more than 30 ethnic communities, each have their own languages and dialects. But not to worry, English is widely spoken as well as many dialects of Chinese. A leisurely stroll around KK's main business and shopping areas will take you to shopping complexes such as Centre Point, Wisma Merdeka, KK Plaza, Plaza Wawasan and Karamunsing



Complex. In Malaysia there are many Duty-free items, including cosmetics, perfumes, jewellery, watches, cameras, as well as electronic and electrical items.

The KKIA—KK International Airport

Terminal One serves all international flights and the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines. **Terminal Two** is used mainly by Air Asia, the second national carrier, and some charter flights. From the Kota Kinabalu International Airport, it is about 15 minutes to KK city centre. There could be traffic jams during rush hours, so those with flights to catch must bear this in mind.

Tourist Information:

Sabah Tourism Board

51 Jalan Gaya, Sabah Tourism Building

Tel: 6088-212121 Fax: 6088-212075

Email: info@sabahtourism.com

Website: www.sabahtourism.com

Sri Pelancongan Sabah

Lot 4, Ground Floor, Block L, Sinsuran Complex

Tel: 6088-232121 Fax: 6088-265540; 219401

Email: info@sabahtourism.com

Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board

Lot 1-0-7, Ground Floor,

Block 1, Lorong Api-Api 1,

Api-Api Centre, 88000 Kota Kinabalu

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TRAVELLERS TIPS

CLIMATE: Equatorial/Tropical

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES: 32°C in the lowlands and 21°C in the highlands

RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 85–95%

CURRENCY: Malaysian Ringgit (RM). Foreign currencies can be changed at banks and hotels as well as licensed moneychangers. Most hotels charge a nominal fee for currency conversion.

MAJOR CREDIT CARD AND CHARGE CARDS: VISA, American Express, Diners Club and Mastercard.

BANK HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 9.30 am–3.30 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am–12 noon

(Closed 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month)

MONEYCHANGERS: Moneychangers can be found at major shopping centres

LOCAL TIME: Standard Malaysian Time is 8 hours ahead of GMT

ELECTRICITY: 240 volts AC/60-cycle system

LANGUAGE: Malay is the official and national language. However, English is widely spoken.

ENTRY INTO MALAYSIA

1. A valid passport (and visa wherever applicable) is required of all persons entering Malaysia.
2. A social or tourist visit pass does not permit the holder to take up employment, business or professional work in Malaysian Borneo or in Brunei. Malaysia Airlines and other airlines operate flights to Kota Kinabalu from Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, Kuching, Bandar Seri Begawan, Seoul, Taipei and Tokyo. Malaysia Airlines also operates flights between towns in Sabah and Sarawak.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Taxis are available from the airport into the capital city and major hotels.

By ROAD

Overland journey by bus or car is easy to arrange between Kuching (Sarawak), Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei Darussalam) and Kota Kinabalu (Sabah). Passports are stamped at all the borders.

By RAIL

Borneo's only railway service in operation is in Sabah. It runs from Tanjung Aru railway station in Kota Kinabalu to Beaufort and Tenom. The journey to Beaufort takes less than 2 hours, and to Tenom about 5 hours. The ride by railcar through the Padas River gorge to Tenom is particularly interesting to visitors.

By FERRY

Ferry services between Kota Kinabalu and Labuan operate every day from 7.10 am to 3.00 pm.

CUSTOMS AND COURTESY

Islam is the official religion in both Malaysia and Brunei. Proper dress and manners should be adhered to at all times. Before entering a mosque, visitors should remove their shoes and women should ensure that their head, knees and arms are covered. They should not pass in front of people at prayer, and should not touch the Quran.

It is impolite to point with your index finger (use the right thumb instead) or to beckon someone with fingers and palm facing upwards. Instead the whole hand should be waved with palm facing downwards. Gifts, particularly food, are passed with the right hand.

**TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE
DEATH PENALTY**



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